

Backcountry Planning Worksheet

Big Bend National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Backcountry permits for primitive roadside campsites or high Chisos backpacking sites **must be obtained in person** at park visitors up to 24 hours in advance of the trip. The permit may be issued for up to 14 consecutive nights in the backcountry.

Trip leaders and/or party members can be cited for violations of park rules and regulations. Trip leaders assume complete responsibility for their own safety and that of their group while hiking and camping in Big Bend National Park.

This form is **NOT** a Permit, it is a worksheet intended to assist in the planning and permit process.

Name _____	# of people _____ # of stock _____
Address _____	Vehicle 1
Address _____	Model/Color _____
City _____	Lic. Plate - State/Plate # _____
State _____ Zip _____	Vehicle 2
Organization _____	Model/Color _____
	Lic. Plate - State/Plate # _____

Itinerary - First Choice:		Itinerary - Second Choice:	
Date	Campsite or Zone	Date	Campsite or Zone
1. _____	_____	1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____	2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____	3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____	4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____	5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____	6. _____	_____

(itinerary requests can be longer than 6 nights)

Backcountry Regulations

1. GROUNDFIRES AND WOODFIRES ARE PROHIBITED.

Use only gas stoves or charcoal within a BBQ grill. Pack out all evidence of use.

2. PACK OUT ALL LITTER.

Help preserve the park's natural beauty by packing out all litter, including cigarette butts and toilet paper.

3. NO PETS ON TRAILS OR IN BACKCOUNTRY.

Pets may harm or be harmed by wildlife, and can attract predators.

4. DO NOT CUT SWITCHBACKS ON TRAILS.

Although cross-country hiking is allowed, help prevent trail erosion by staying on marked trails.

5. COLLECTING ANY NATURAL OR HISTORICAL FEATURE OR OBJECT IS PROHIBITED.

Leave park features intact for others to enjoy.

6. CONTAMINATING NATURAL WATER SOURCES AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS IS PROHIBITED. CAMP AT LEAST 100 YARDS FROM ANY WATER SOURCE.

Desert water sources and springs are fragile and vital for the plants and animals that depend on them for survival. Soaps, oils, skin lotions, and food residues from bathing and washing can seriously impact water quality. Minimize your impact to areas surrounding springs, seeps, and other temporal water sources.

7. CAMP WITHIN DESIGNATED SITES.

When camping in a designated site prevent resource damage by camping within the area outlined by rocks, logs, or brush.

8. GENERATOR USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES.

Natural quiet is a protected resource; help preserve a quiet wilderness experience.

9. IN OPEN ZONES, CAMP AT LEAST 1/2 MILE AND OUT OF SIGHT FROM ANY ROAD AND AT LEAST 100 YDS. FROM ANY TRAIL, HISTORICAL STRUCTURE, ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, DRY WASH, OR CLIFF EDGE.

Minimize your impact to the natural landscape.

10. BURY HUMAN WASTE AT LEAST 6 INCHES DEEP. PACK OUT TOILET PAPER.

Human waste is unsightly and unsanitary. Carry a digging trowel. Locate latrines 1/4 mile from any water source and well away from camp.

11. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, OTHER WEAPONS, AND TRAPS IS PROHIBITED.

12. MOTORIZED VEHICLES & BICYCLES ARE PERMITTED ONLY ON DESIGNATED PUBLIC ROADS.

Off-road vehicle travel causes visual and environmental damage.

13. DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE.

Feeding wildlife is illegal; it often results in having to destroy the animal. Keep food in a hard-sided vehicle or food storage locker where provided.